

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 12-15 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-11 and 16-20 were rejected.

Claims 1-11 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 4-8, 11 and 16 are currently amended.

No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wrinn (U.S. Patent No. 4,746,855) in view of Dehara (U.S. Patent No. 4,775,977).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the pattern memory includes an input pattern memory for storing input signal patterns, and an output pattern memory for storing output signal patterns, wherein the output pattern memory stores K output signal patterns retrievable from an external device. This amendment is supported in the Specification on page 8, lines 18-20, for example. No new matter has been added.

Neither Wrinn nor Dehara teach this recitation of claim 1. For example, Dehara shows, in FIG. 1, a pattern memory 1A within a pattern generator 1. However, there is no teaching of an output pattern memory that stores output signal patterns, let alone an output pattern memory that stores K (equivalent to the number of pins in a pin group connected to a single driver/comparator unit) output signal patterns retrievable from an external device. Even the combination of Wrinn with Dehara fails to show or teach these limitations. It is for at least this reason that the applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection for this claim.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitation that the memory stores the desired plural number of output signal patterns retrievable from an external device, wherein the desired number is equal to the number of pins in a pin group. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification on page 8, lines 18-20, for example. No new matter has been added.

Neither Wrinn nor Dehara teach this recitation of claim 8 for the same reasons a discussed above for claim 1. It is for at least this reason that the applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection for this claim as well.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite a signal pattern that is stored in a hard disk, wherein the hard disk outputs the predetermined output signal pattern to an output pattern memory that stores the predetermined output signal pattern, and wherein the output pattern memory is connected between the hard disk and the semiconductor device. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification on page 8, lines 22-30, for example. No new matter has been added.

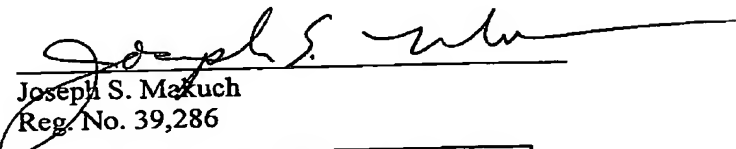
Neither Wrinn nor Dehara teach this recitation of claim 16 for the same reasons a discussed above for claims 1 and 8. Furthermore, neither Wrinn nor Dehara show or teach a hard disk drive, let alone one that outputs the predetermined output signal pattern to an output pattern memory that stores the predetermined output signal pattern as recited in claim 16. It is for at least this reason that the applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection for this claim as well.

Claims 2-7, 9-10 and 17-20 depend from claim 1, 8 and 16, respectively, and inherently include all of the limitations of their base claim. As discussed above, the prior art does not teach the limitations of the base claims much less the further embodiments of their dependent claims. Therefore, claims 2-7, 9-10 and 17-20 are allowable for their dependency and their own merits. Allowance of these claims is requested.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 and 16-20 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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